

3.14.03

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

NATHAN S. LEWIS, PH.D UNDER 37 CFR §1.131

1. I, Nathan S. Lewis, having an address at 5259 Gould Avenue, La Canada, CA 91011, am a co-inventor of the above-captioned United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/409,644, which application claims priority under §119 to Provisional Patent Application No. 60/102,817, filed October 2, 1998.
2. I am familiar with the prosecution history of Patent Application Serial No. 09/409,644.
3. I submit that Sestak et al. (SPIE, 3241:118-129, Nov. 1997), Torsi et al. (Sensors and Actuators B, 48:362-367, 1998), and Galal (Solid State Electrochem, 2:7-15, 1998) are not available as prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102 or §103.

4. Prior to the public availability of Sestak et al., Torsi et al., and Galal, the discovery of conductive polymer composites with compositionally different conductors (e.g., polyaniline or emeraldine salts of polyaniline with carbon black), was first performed by me or under my direction at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, California. We were diligent from the time that we first discussed and conceived the invention with respect to the idea of sensors comprising a conductive organic material and a conductive material compositionally different than the conductive organic material, up until the time of filing the Provisional Application having Serial No. 60/102,817 on October 2, 1998.

5. Evidence of the conception of the claimed invention is supplied in the form of a copy of notes (Exhibit D) from our laboratory notebooks, prior to November 1997, the publication date of Sestak et al. (the earliest date of any of the three cited references). These notes show our reduction to practice of polyaniline-carbon black composites and their use as sensors.

6. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or

Applicant: Nathan S. Lewis et al
Serial No.: 09/409,644
Filed : October 1, 1999
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imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patents issued thereon.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/21/03

Nathan S. Lewis
Nathan S. Lewis

PREPARATION OF PANI/PS SENSORS: A SERIES OF SOLUTIONS WERE PREPARED.
 PANI: FROM 20% PANI TO 12% PANI. SENSORS WERE ORGANIZED AS IN THE 80:20
 PS/PAN: SOLUTIONS. A TOTAL OF 8 WERE PREPARED (8, A \rightarrow H, #3)
 AFTER DRYING UNDER AIR FOR 1 DAY THE RESISTANCES WERE AS FOLLOWS:

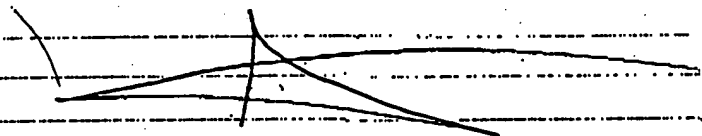
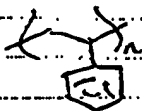
87.2 k Ω , 55.5 k Ω , 180 k Ω , 89.7 k Ω , 126 k Ω , 48.7 k Ω , 116.3 k Ω , 36.0 k Ω

These were prepared by volume expansion, 1 μ l of 5 drops was a success.

Another series of sensors was prepared using the 80:18 (PS:PANI) solution
 the resistances of these after allowing to dry for one day is: (9, A \rightarrow F, #3)

1.03 M Ω , 3.22 M Ω , 0.9 M Ω , 0.167 M Ω , 1.7 M Ω , 0.39 M Ω

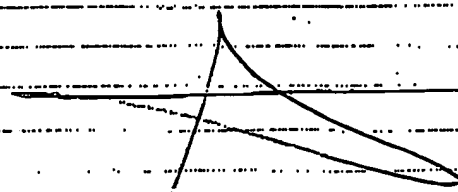
SENS IN THE PYSOLYMER (MW = 45000) AND INCH $d = 1.060$



- A SERIES OF SOLUTIONS WERE PREPARED USING BENZENE AS THE SOLVENT. THESE ARE:
1. PS:CB (80:20)
 2. PS:CB:PANI (80:10:10)
 3. PMMA:PANI (80:20)
 4. PMMA:CB (80:20)

SENSORS WERE PREPARED (FROM VOLUME EXPANSION) AND THE RESULTS FOLLOW:

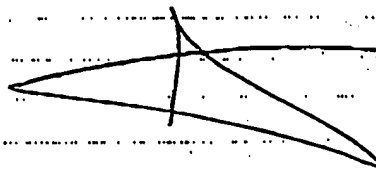
PS:CB (80:20) (10, A \rightarrow H, #3) 1 drop solvent
 PS:CB:PANI (80:10:10) (11, A \rightarrow H, #3) 1 drop solvent
 PMMA:PANI (80:20) (12, A \rightarrow H, #3) 4 drops solvent
 PMMA:CB (80:20) (61 AND H1 \rightarrow H7, #3) 1 drop solvent



A Temperature study looking at the change in Resistance over a range of temperature was studied. The sensors used were:

Sensor #1,2,3 8F, 8G, 8H (of #3) \Rightarrow PAW/PS
 Sensor #4,5,6 10F, 10G, 10H (of #3) \Rightarrow CB/PS
 Sensor #7,8,9 11F, 11G, 11H (of #3) \Rightarrow PS/CB/PAW
 Sensor #10,11 12F, 12G (of #3) \Rightarrow PAW/PAW
 Sensor #12,13,14 6H, 7H, 16 (of #3) \Rightarrow PAW/PAW/CB

Using a vacuum seal and a towel the cell and water cells were insulated and the temperature was able to go as low as -3°C . The temperature was fine ranged and the resistance measurements were taken during this. The experiment was run at the oldest of the noses. FILENAME = PERKINAP2
 from 30°C to 78°C the filename is PERKINAP3.



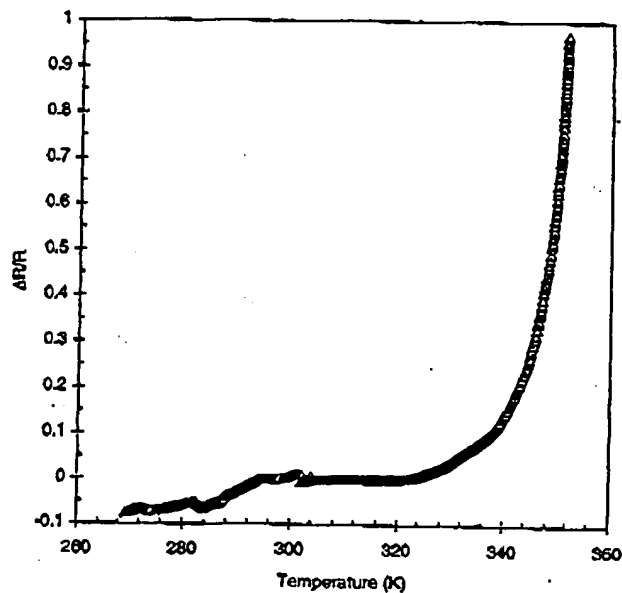
After these sensors were prepared and are as follows (prepared by vacuum evaporation).
 3 of board sensors.

PVDF/PAW (80:20) [1A \rightarrow 1H, #4] \Rightarrow could not make (nonresistive) O.L.
 PVDF/CB (80:20) [2A \rightarrow 2H, #4] 1 drop
 PVDF/PAW (80:20) [3A \rightarrow 3H, #4] 4 drops
 PVDF/CB (80:20) [4A \rightarrow 4H, #4] 1 drop
 PVDF/PAW (80:20) [5A \rightarrow 5H, #4] 5 drops
 PVDF/CB (80:20) [6A \rightarrow 6H, #4] 1 drop
 PVDF/PAW (73:27) [7A \rightarrow 7H, #4] 6 drops

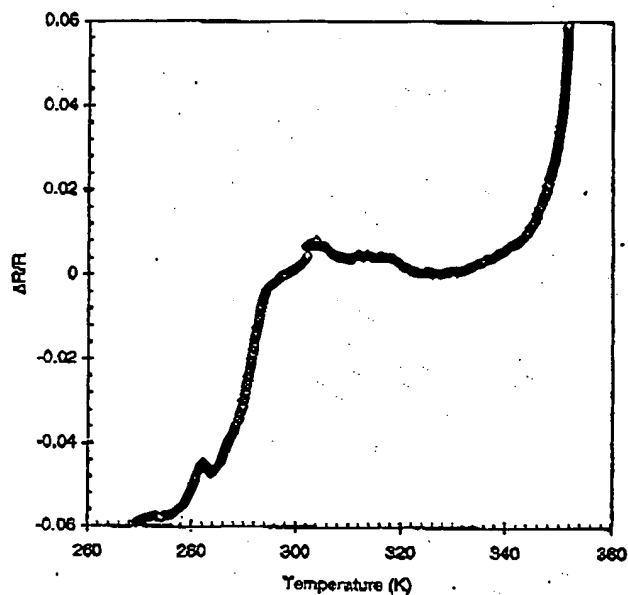
The PVDF/PAW sensors were overloaded for both sets used. Blowing in the 73:27 PVDF/PAW sensor the resistance would drop to about a few M Ω 's. This suggests that they are still wet. The sensors were then placed under a steady stream of air.

DMA WAX UP for $R_{\text{ex Temp 2}} + R_{\text{ex Temp 3}}$

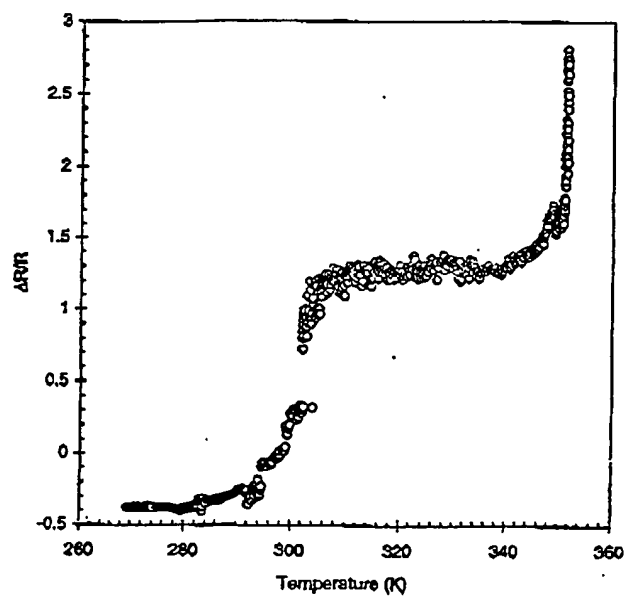
PS/CB (80/20) SURF Sensors (Avg of 3)



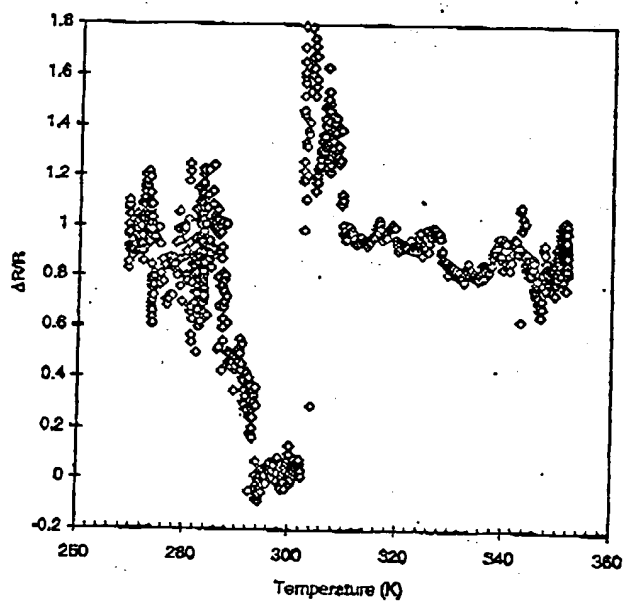
PMMA/CB (80/20) SURF Sensors (Avg of 2)



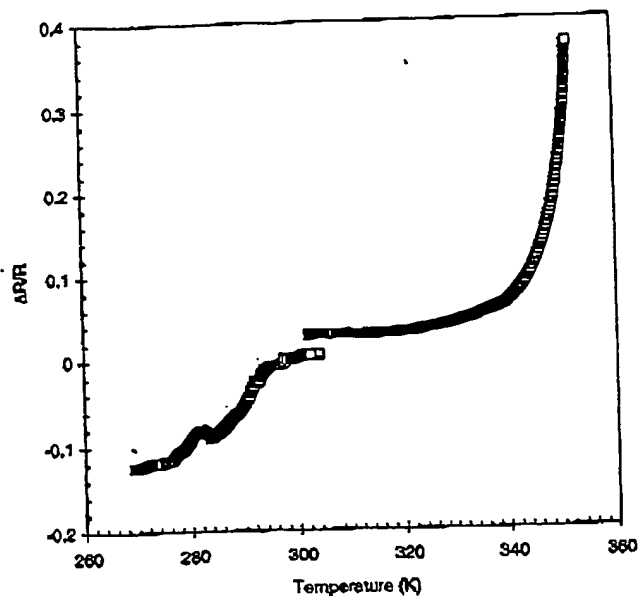
PS/PANI (80/20) SURF Sensors (Avg of 3)



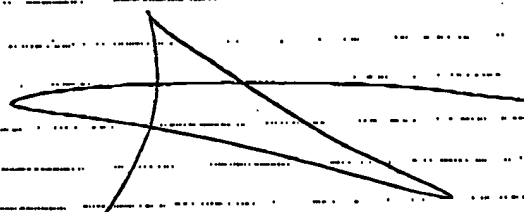
PMMA/PANI (80/20) SURF Sensors (Avg of 2)



PS/PAN/CB (80:10:10) SURF Sensors (Avg of 3)

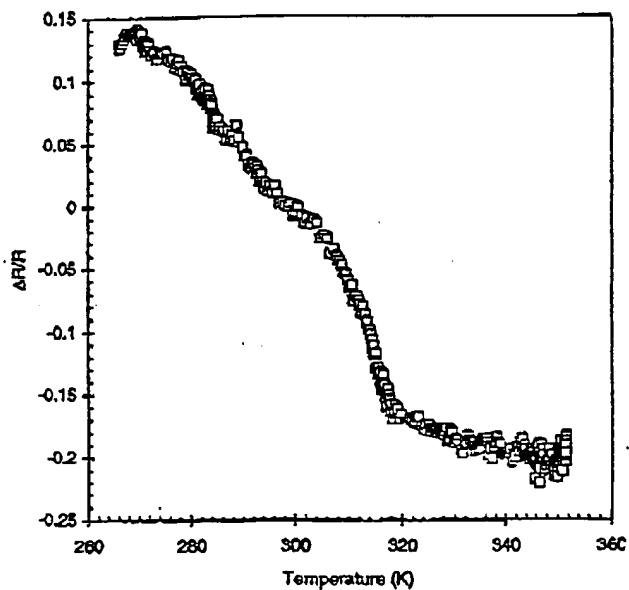


As the data suggests the best
sensors for doing a Temp based
per detection study would possibly
be PS/PANI, PS/CB, PMMA/CB
PMMA/PAN. These all seem to
have positive temperature
coefficients.

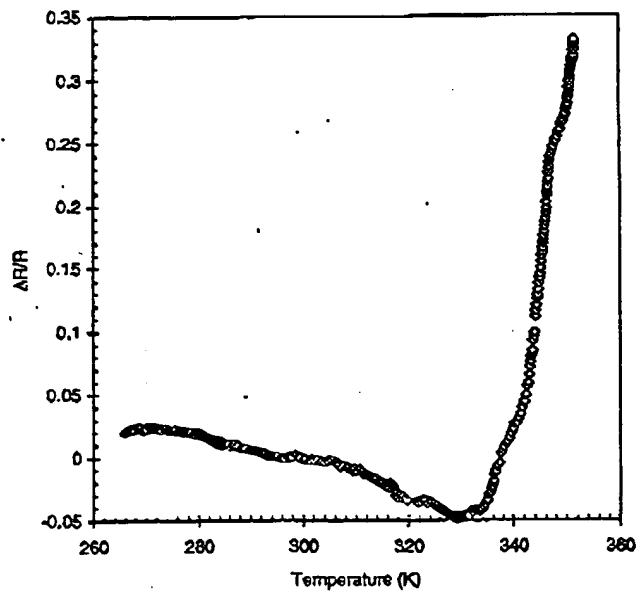


DATA LOOKUP FOR PER TEMP 4

PVB/PANI (80/20) SURF Sensors (Avg of 3)



PVB/CB (80/20) SURF Sensors (Avg of 3)



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ORIGINAL PAPER

Ahmed Galal

Electrocatalytic oxidation of some biologically important compounds at conducting polymer electrodes modified by metal complexes

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Abstract Conducting poly(3-methylthiophene) electrodes were electrochemically prepared. The resulting polymer films were modified with an inorganic complex, ferrocene. The incorporation of the ferrocene/ferrocenium moiety into the polymer film resulted in enhanced charge transfer towards the oxidation of some organic molecules of biological interest. The electrochemical response of the complex-containing polymer electrode was compared to that of the unmodified polymer electrode and that of the substrate. Apparent diffusion coefficients of the redox species were estimated from the cyclic voltammetric data for different biological molecules at the ferrocene-containing polymer electrode. Infra-red spectroscopic measurements for the "as-grown" films revealed the presence of the inorganic complex within the polymer. The modified polymer electrode showed noticeable enhancement for the charge transfer across the film interface and can be used as an electrochemical sensor for biological compounds.

Key words Electrocatalysis · Conducting polymers · Modified electrodes · Biosensors · Voltammetry

Introduction

The deliberate chemical modification of the electrode surface with a suitable reagent results in the control of the rates and selectivities of electrochemical reactions at the solid/liquid interface. The concept of electrode modification originated early in the 1970s with the work

of several research groups [1, 2]. Current research based on chemical modification of the electrode surface could be categorized into five major groups: electrocatalysis, preconcentration, membrane barriers, electroreleasing, and microstructures [3]. Different reagents were attached to the surface of the electrode, for example the chemisorption of quinone-bearing olefins on platinum [1] and of a dicobalt cofacial porphyrin electrocatalyst on pyrolytic carbon surfaces [4]. Adsorption of reagents containing mercaptide groups at mercury surfaces has also been exploited [5]. Chemical functionalization of the electrode surface to provide anchoring groups to attach reagents by definable covalent bonds was introduced by Murray and coworkers [2]. This approach was extensively developed for attaching monomolecular and multimolecular layers of electroactive substances to semiconductors, metal oxides and carbon electrodes [6-11]. Recently, electroactive polymeric films have acquired wide popularity since it is easier to generate these at the surface of the electrode than to use the monolayer approach [7]. Moreover, the relatively increased number of active sites through the polymer film rendered the electrochemical processes at its surface more pronounced than those at a monolayer-modified surface. Electroactive polymers could be divided into three classes: redox, electronically/ionically conductive and ion exchange polymers. Some examples of electronically/ionically conducting polymers are: poly(pyrrole), poly(thiophene), poly(*p*-phenylene), poly(aniline), and their derivatives. The aforementioned polymers are easily formed by electrochemical polymerization [12], and they can be used to entrap electrocatalysts such as phthalocyanines [13] and enzymes [14], as in the case of poly(pyrrole). However, the incorporation of metal complexes into conducting polymers has been demonstrated mainly for redox-type polymers in a limited number of publications [15-18]. Ferrocene- and phenothiazine-based and pyrene end-capped redox-active polymers were also prepared and characterized [19-22].

On the other hand, during the course of development in the area of electrochemical sensors, the desire for

A. Galal¹
Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science,
University of Cairo, Giza, Egypt

¹ Present address: Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Science,
United Arab Emirates University, P.O. Box 17551, Al-Ain,
United Arab Emirates
Tel.: +971-3-677700/211; Fax: +971-3-671291;
e-mail: Helmyag@nyx.uaeu.ac.ae

improvements in the stability, selectivity, and scope of such sensors followed from the real challenges of achieving the "successful" analysis of clinical and environmental samples [23]. Electronically/ionically conducting polymers were used successfully as new tools for biomolecular determination; refer for example to the review work of Mark et al. [24] and Wallace et al. [25]. To the knowledge of the author, however, the fabrication of a conducting poly(3-methylthiophene) containing metal complexes and its application for the electrocatalytic oxidation of some biological molecules have not been previously mentioned in the literature.

In this work, we assess the benefit of the important feature of the incorporation of the ions of the supporting electrolyte into the polymer film during its formation. The electrical and electrochemical properties of the polymer film are affected by the nature of the electrolyte employed [26]. Thus, we incorporated ferrocene moieties into the polymer film and studied its electrochemical properties and structural characterization [27]. This paper shows that the ferrocenium incorporated into the conducting poly(3-methylthiophene) mediates the electron transfer reaction of the oxidation of some biological molecules. The electrochemical response of the polymer electrode "modified" with ferrocene (PMT/Fc) towards the biological molecules is compared to that of the unmodified one and to the Pt and glassy carbon (GC) electrodes. The results are explained in terms of the increase in the electrocatalytic properties of the polymer film caused by the incorporation of the ferrocenium moieties into its composition.

Experimental

Chemicals and materials

All chemicals used were reagent grade. 3-Methylthiophene was used as the monomer, ferrocenecarboxaldehyde (FcCHO), tetrabutylammonium tetrafluoroborate (TBAF₄B), ferrocenium hexafluorophosphate (FcPF₆), potassium ferricyanide, and HPLC grade acetonitrile (AcN) were purchased from Aldrich (Milwaukee, Wis., USA). Other chemicals used in this work were obtained from Fisher Scientific (USA) and were used without further purification. Distilled deionized water was used to prepare aqueous solutions. Acetonitrile was stored over 4-Å molecular sieves for 24 h before use.

A platinum disk electrode (apparent area 0.03 cm²) obtained from Bioanalytical Systems, (West Lafayette, USA) was used for electropolymerizing the film using a conventional three-electrode cell. The auxiliary electrode was a platinum flag (2 × 2 cm²) and all potentials were recorded versus a saturated Ag/AgCl reference. All electrochemical measurements were performed in a conventional one-compartment three-electrode cell. Electrochemical experiments were performed using a CMS 100 electrochemical system (Gamry Instruments, USA). The CMS 100 system was connected to a PC where data were collected, processed and analyzed using the CMS 100-system data analysis software. Electron spectroscopy for chemical analysis (ESCA) was performed using the Perkin-Elmer ESCA-5300 Spectrometer with a pass energy of about 25 eV ($\Delta E = 0.5$ eV). IR experiments were performed using a Nicolet Impact 400 FTIR instrument (Nicolet, USA). A Burleigh

Instruments scanning tunneling microscope was used along with "True Image" software to produce surface morphological images. All film conductivities were measured using a four-point probe unit.

Electrode preparation

Films of poly(methylthiophene) modified with ferrocene moieties (PMT/Fc) were formed using the cyclic voltammetric technique. The electrode was polished with 3- and 1- μ m diamond paste to a mirror-like finish. The solvent/electrolyte was purged with N₂ for 15 min before use. The working Pt electrode was then subjected to repeated cycles between -0.5 V and 1.8 V vs Ag/AgCl. The thickness of the film formed was determined from the charge passed during the cyclic voltammetric experiments. The electrode was then held at a negative potential of -0.5 V in a monomer-free electrolyte containing ferrocenium hexafluorophosphate. The electrode was then removed from the applied potential control when its current reached the background level. A typical electrolytic medium used for the electropolymerization consisted of 0.08 M each of 3MT and FcPF₆ and 0.1 M TBAHFP in AcN. The polymer thus formed was rinsed thoroughly with water and dried in air for further use. Polymer films were prepared for surface characterization according to the above-mentioned procedure using a special holder which contained a 1-cm² Pt electrode sheet. The film was dried for 24 h under Ar prior to further experiments. All electrochemical experiments were carried out under a purified N₂ atmosphere.

Results and discussion

Cyclic voltammograms of the ferrocenium-containing polymer electrode

Hydroquinone was used as a probe to determine whether the ferrocenium-containing polymer electrode (PMT/Fc) possessed an electronic conducting property, and to compare its electrochemical response to those of the poly(3-methylthiophene) (PMT), glassy carbon (GC), and platinum (Pt) electrodes. The cyclic voltammogram obtained at a bare Pt electrode in 0.5 mM hydroquinone and phosphate buffer (pH 6.7) shows no oxidation or reduction peaks for this concentration (see Fig. 1 curve a). Figure 1 (curve b) shows the electrochemical response of the PMT electrode; the oxidation and reduction peaks appeared at +0.47 and +0.40 V, respectively, which gives an E° of +0.435 V and $\Delta E_p = 0.07$ V. It is important to notice that the redox potential for hydroquinone is not within the potential window in which the poly(3-methylthiophene) is conducting [27, 28]. This is in contrast to many electronically conducting polymers such as poly(aniline) [29]. However, the redox potential for hydroquinone is sufficiently positive of the Fc⁺/Fc redox couple so that the mediation by the ferrocenyl moiety can be evaluated. Thus, Fig. 1 (curve c) shows the cyclic voltammogram of hydroquinone in phosphate buffer at the PMT/Fc electrode, and the following conclusions are drawn: (1) oxidation and reduction peaks are observed at +0.46 and +0.40, respectively, (2) E° and ΔE_p are +0.430 and 0.06 V, respectively, and (3) two distinct redox

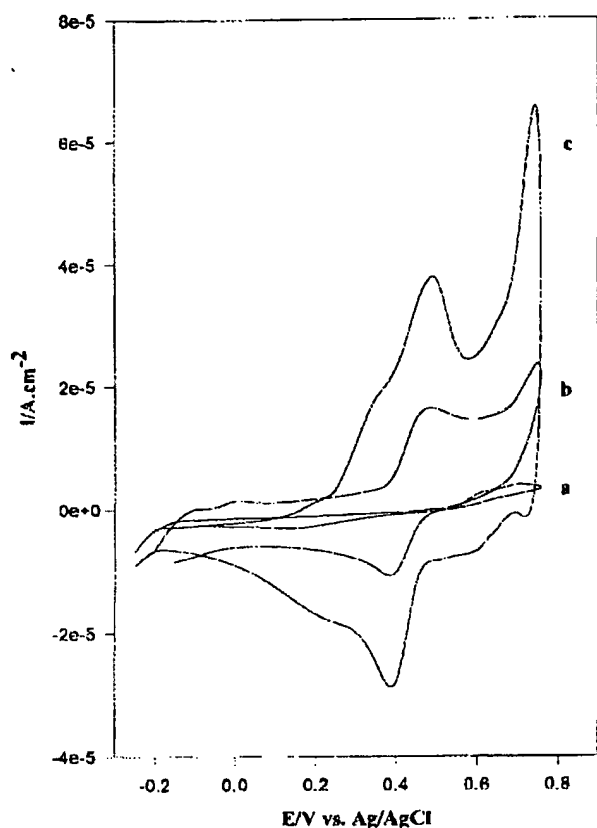


Fig. 1 Cyclic voltammograms of 5.00×10^{-4} M hydroquinone in phosphate buffer (pH = 6.7). Scan rate = 50 mV/s, vs Ag/AgCl. (a) Pt, (b) PMT, and (c) PMT/Fc electrodes

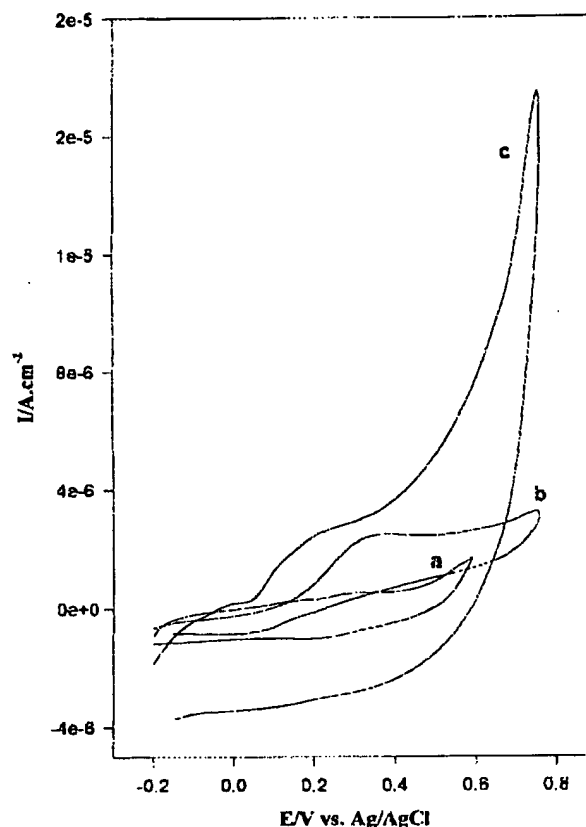


Fig. 2 Cyclic voltammograms of 5.00×10^{-4} M ascorbic acid in phosphate buffer (pH = 6.7). Scan rate = 50 mV/s, vs Ag/AgCl. (a) Pt, (b) PMT, and (c) PMT/Fc electrodes

shoulders are observed at +0.2 and +0.3 V, respectively. The later redox peaks are assigned to the Fc^+/Fc redox couple in the PMT film, while the second wave is due to the hydroquinone oxidation. The catalytic effect of the ferrocenyl moiety on the mediation of the charge transfer is shown by comparing the peak current density for hydroquinone oxidation at the PMT and the PMT/Fc electrodes (curves b and c), which are 1.5×10^{-5} and 4.0×10^{-5} A cm^{-2} , respectively. The electrochemical behavior of the PMT/Fc electrode in the absence of the redox species in solution has been described [27].

The electrochemical response of the three electrodes, Pt, PMT, and PMT/Fc was also compared for the oxidation of 5×10^{-4} M ascorbic acid in phosphate buffer (pH 6.7), as shown in Fig. 2 (curves a, b, and c, respectively). In Fig. 2 it can be seen that: (1) the electrochemical response due to the oxidation of ascorbic acid at the platinum electrode at this concentration is not observed, (2) one oxidation peak appeared at the PMT electrode at +0.35 V, (3) two oxidation peaks appeared at the PMT/Fc electrode, the first at -0.05 V due to the redox couple of Fc^+/Fc and the second at +0.15 V due to the oxidation of ascorbic acid, and (4) the anodic peak currents I_{pa} corresponding to the oxidation of ascorbic acid are 2.00×10^{-6} and 3.00×10^{-6} A cm^{-2} at

the PMT and PMT/Fc electrodes, respectively. Two important conclusions could be drawn, (1) the PMT/Fc electrode displayed the highest value of oxidation current density I_{pa} when compared to the Pt and PMT electrodes, and (2) the position of the oxidation potential for the Fc^+/Fc couple changes with the type of supporting electrolyte employed.

Table 1 summarizes the electrochemical data for the oxidation of some molecules of biological interest. The data were collected from the cyclic voltammograms at Pt, GC, PMT, and PMT/Fc electrodes for the compounds indicated. The scan rate is 50 mV/s, and the analyte concentration is 5 mM in 0.1 M H_2SO_4 for the electrodes studied. Except for ascorbic acid, all test substances displayed reversible behavior in 0.1 M H_2SO_4 electrolyte (as well as in phosphate buffer, pH 6.7). From the biosensor point of view, the oxidation peak potential values, E_{pa} , for these substances as well as their corresponding oxidation peak current values, I_{pa} , are more important than their reversible behavior. Thus, all compounds shows significant decrease in the E_{pa} values in the following order: E_{pa} values at PMT/Fc < PMT < Pt < GC, respectively. Moreover, the I_{pa} increased in the following order: I_{pa} values at PMT/Fc > PMT > Pt > GC, respectively.

10

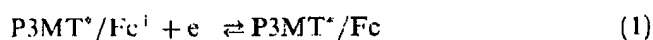
Table 1 Electrochemical data of some biological compounds at different electrodes. All compounds are 5.00×10^{-3} M in phosphate buffer (pH 6.7). Scan rate 50 mV/s

| Compound | Electrode | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| | Pt | | GC | | PMT | | PMT/Fc | |
| | $E_{pa}(mV)$ | $I_{pa}(A\ cm^{-2})$ | $E_{pa}(mV)$ | $I_{pa}(A\ cm^{-2})$ | $E_{pa}(mV)$ | $I_{pa}(A\ cm^{-2})$ | $E_{pa}(mV)$ | $I_{pa}(A\ cm^{-2})$ |
| Acetaminophen | 610 | 2.70×10^{-6} | 910 | 3.00×10^{-6} | 490 | 3.00×10^{-5} | 480 | 3.60×10^{-5} |
| p-Aminophenol | 625 | 2.80×10^{-6} | 870 | 3.10×10^{-6} | 465 | 2.90×10^{-5} | 445 | 3.70×10^{-5} |
| Ascorbic acid | 598 | 3.30×10^{-6} | 985 | 3.50×10^{-6} | 320 | 2.70×10^{-5} | 175 | 3.90×10^{-5} |
| Catechol | 690 | 3.50×10^{-6} | 860 | 3.90×10^{-6} | 525 | 3.30×10^{-5} | 504 | 4.30×10^{-5} |
| Dopamine | 685 | 2.90×10^{-6} | 840 | 3.80×10^{-6} | 515 | 3.20×10^{-5} | 510 | 4.00×10^{-5} |
| Epinephrine | 730 | 3.10×10^{-6} | 930 | 4.20×10^{-6} | 435 | 1.90×10^{-5} | 415 | 5.10×10^{-5} |
| Hydroquinone | 690 | 4.00×10^{-6} | 740 | 5.60×10^{-6} | 490 | 2.00×10^{-5} | 465 | 4.50×10^{-5} |
| Fe^{3+}/Fe^{2+} | 437 | 3.20×10^{-6} | 560 | 4.80×10^{-6} | 310 | 1.70×10^{-5} | 305 | 6.20×10^{-5} |

Origin of the electrocatalytic property of the PMT/Fc electrode

Glassy carbon (GC) electrodes are preferred for the oxidative analysis of biological molecules because of their relative resistance to the surface fouling caused by the adsorption of the oxidation products [30]. However, as can be seen from Table 1, the anodic peak potentials of all compounds were much higher than those obtained at the PMT electrode. These results are in good agreement with those obtained by Mark et al. [31]. On the other hand, the PMT/Fc displayed less positive oxidation potential values and higher corresponding oxidation peak currents than those for the PMT electrode. The superior catalytic effect of the PMT/Fc electrode towards the electrooxidation of the studied compounds could be explained on the following basis:

The redox process at the electrode surface can be expressed in the following way:



We should also indicate that the redox process of the analyte takes place at the PMT/Fc electrode within a potential window, ca. -0.2 V and 0.8 V, the polymer electrode being partially reduced and oxidized. The charge transfer, therefore, takes place through the polymer film at potentials well negative of its "fully" doped (oxidized) state, where the film becomes highly conducting [28]. Similar observations were reported earlier in the literature [24, 32]. In our discussion, however, we are assuming that the poly(3-methylthiophene) film is conducting or partially conducting at the positive potential limit, and the polymer film is not porous and can be reversibly oxidized and reduced.

The incorporation of a redox mediator system such as Fc/Fc^+ within the polymer film will result in an increase in the rate of charge transfer at its surface. An explanation of this observation is that the rate-determining step, which is due to the charge migration or hopping between the redox sites [33, 34], is affected by the presence of the Fc/Fc^+ couples within the polymer film. The total current, I_T , is given by:

$$I_T = I_{Red/Ox} + I_{CAT} + I_{Red/Ox}^{POL} + I_{dl} \quad (3)$$

Where: $I_{Red/Ox}$ is the charge exchange at the Pt substrate, I_{CAT} is the catalytic current component due to the charge transfer between the Red/Ox couple and the polymer oxidized states, $I_{Red/Ox}^{POL}$ is the current due to the redox process of polymer film, and I_{dl} is the charging/discharging component of the electrical double layer at the polymer/substrate and polymer/solution interfaces.

Two additional components which will enhance the catalytic effect of the electrode are added when the Fc/Fc^+ couple is incorporated to the polymer film. The total current, in this case, is given by:

$$I_T = I_{Red/Ox} + I_{CAT} + I_{Red/Ox}^{POL} + I_{dl} + I_{CAT}^{Fc} + I_{Red/Ox}^{POL/Fc} \quad (4)$$

Where: I_{CAT}^{Fc} is the catalytic current due to the charge transfer between the Red/Ox couple and the oxidized states of the polymer-containing Fc, and $I_{Red/Ox}^{POL/Fc}$ is the current component due to the reversible redox reaction of the PMT/Fc film (cf. equilibrium 1). Details of the conduction mechanism and equilibria involved are given in the literature [27].

The later distinct increase in the catalytic current at the PMT/Fc electrode is illustrated in Fig. 3A and B. The effect of increasing the concentration of dopamine in phosphate buffer (pH 6.7) at the PMT and PMT/Fc electrodes is given in Fig. 3A and Fig. 3B, respectively. Two important conclusions could be drawn from the results depicted in Fig. 3A and B: (1) The position of the potential oxidation peaks is almost identical for all concentrations studied at the PMT/Fc electrode, while slight shifts were observed at the corresponding PMT electrode as the concentration changed, and (2) the current sensitivity for the relatively low concentrations of dopamine at the PMT/Fc electrode is seen to be superior to that at the PMT electrode. The calibration curves obtained from the cyclic voltammetric data for different concentrations of dopamine in phosphate buffer at the PMT/Fc and the PMT electrodes is shown in Fig. 4A and B, respectively. Again, the higher sensi-

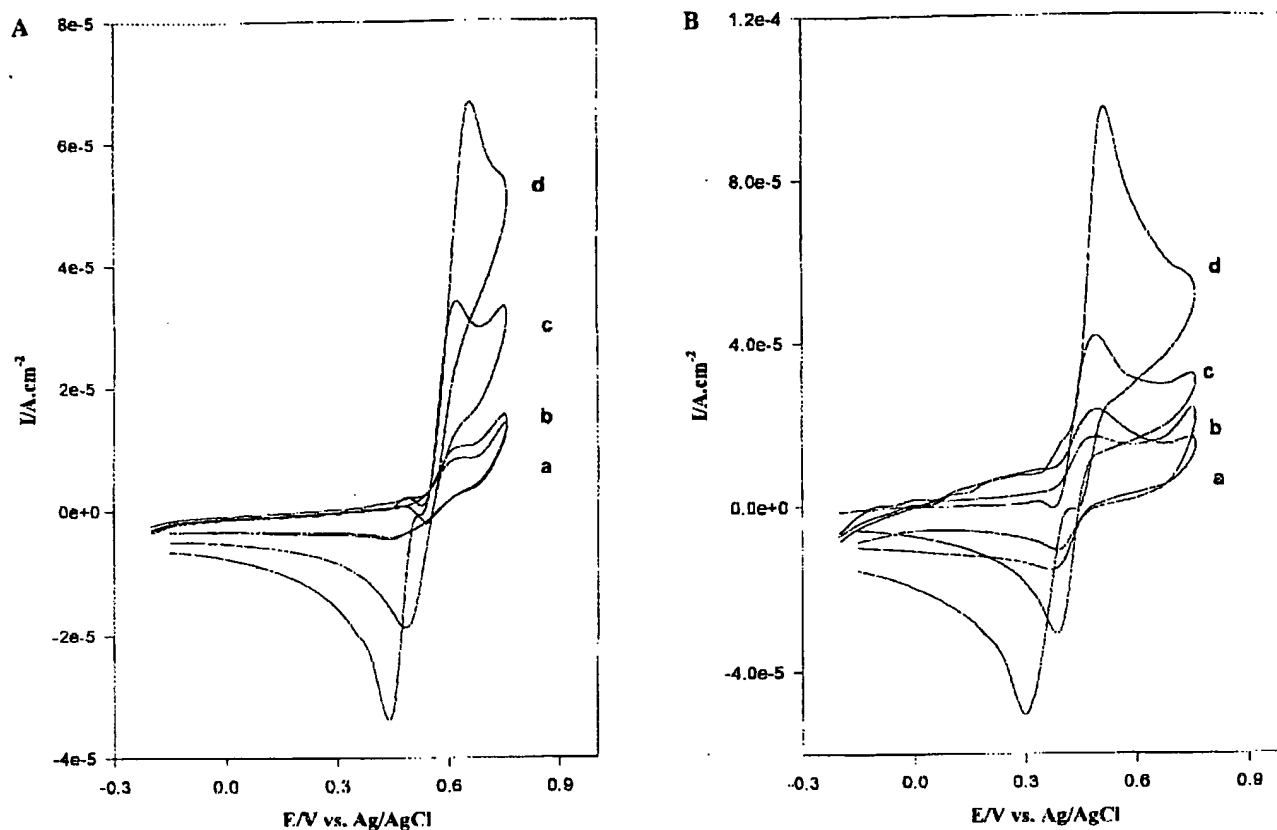


Fig. 3A,B The effect of increasing the concentration of dopamine in phosphate buffer (pH = 6.7) at (A) PMT, and PMT/Fc (B) electrodes. Scan rate = 50 mV/s, vs Ag/AgCl

tivity of the current response at the PMT/Fc electrode is apparent from the higher sensitivity of the calibration curve. As indicated above, the electrocatalytic current observed at the PMT/Fc electrode surface is higher than that of the PMT electrode and is attributed to the presence of the ferrocenium in the polymer film.

Apparent diffusion coefficients

The presence of the polymer film on the substrate surface complicates the approach used to calculate the diffusion coefficient. For clarification, we will consider two assumptions: (1) a competition exists between the transport of the oxidized species of the analyte through the polymer film, which is relatively slow, and the relatively fast electron-transfer reaction with the polymer, and (2) the rate of oxidation (or the redox reaction) depends on the concentration of the polymeric sites at which this reaction takes place. Two consequences arise from these two assumptions: (1) the concentration of the redox species in the polymer film will reach equilibrium only after a relatively long time period, and (2) the presence of Fc/Fc⁺ couple in the film will change the concentration of the active sites within the polymer. The transport of the charges through the PMT polymer film was also described previously in the literature as a "hopping"

process [35]. The apparent diffusion coefficients were found to be in the order of 1.00×10^{-10} to 1.00×10^{-15} cm² s⁻¹ [36]. The latter values are much smaller than those reported for redox species in solution [37].

In this section, we compare the estimated apparent diffusion coefficients D_{app} of the PMT and PMT/Fc electrodes from the dependence of the anodic peak current densities on the scan rate. The D_{app} values were calculated according to Eq. 5 [38]:

$$I_{ap} = 2.69 \times 10^5 n^{3/2} A D_{app}^{1/2} c^0 v^{1/2} \quad (5)$$

where I_{ap} is the anodic peak current density (A cm⁻²), n is the number of electrons transferred, at $T = 298$ K, A is the geometrical electrode area (0.031 cm²), c^0 is the analyte concentration (5.00×10^{-3} mol cm⁻³), and v is the scan rate (V s⁻¹). It is important to note that the apparent surface area used in the calculations did not take into account the surface roughness, which is an inherent characteristics of all polymer films formed using the electrochemical technique. Thus, for a diffusion-controlled process, a plot of the anodic peak current values versus the square root of the scan rate results in a straight-line relationship. The slope of these lines should result in an estimation of the value of D_{app} according to Eq. 1. Figure 5 shows a comparison of the square root of the scan rate versus I_{ap} plots of dopamine

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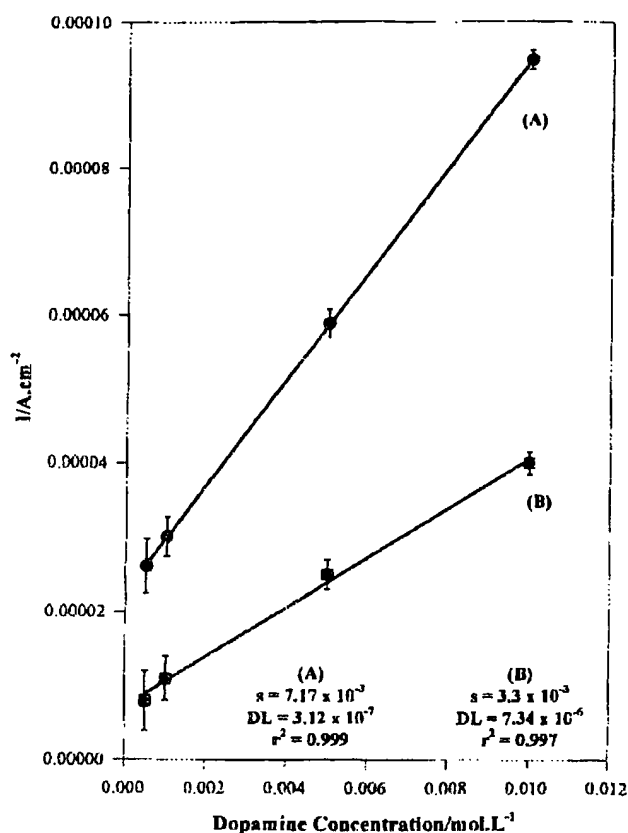


Fig. 4 Calibration curve for different concentrations of dopamine in phosphate buffer. Data obtained from cyclic voltammetric experiments at PMT/Fc (A) and PMT (B) electrodes

at PMT and PMT/Fc electrodes, respectively. The values calculated for the D_{app} from Fig. 5 are 2.29×10^{-10} and $5.68 \times 10^{-11} \text{ cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$ at the PMT/Fc and PMT electrodes, respectively. The relatively high value of D_{app} for the PMT/Fc electrode compared with that of the PMT electrode indicates that the electron transfer step of the electrocatalytic reaction takes place faster at the former electrode surface. Similar results were reported earlier in the literature [40], indicating the electrocatalytic charge transfer at the conducting polymer electrode surface. Moreover, it also shows that the reaction occurs at the solution/polymer interface. Table 2 lists typical values for different biological molecules calculated at both electrodes.

Table 2 Apparent diffusion coefficients at PMT and PMT/Fc electrodes. Data estimated from cyclic voltammetric measurements

| Species | Apparent diffusion coefficients D_{app} ($\text{cm}^2 \text{ s}^{-1}$) | |
|---------------|--|------------------------|
| | PMT | PMT/Fc |
| Ascorbic Acid | 1.13×10^{-11} | 3.11×10^{-12} |
| Catechol | 4.57×10^{-11} | 1.13×10^{-12} |
| Dopamine | 2.29×10^{-10} | 5.68×10^{-11} |
| Epinephrine | 6.88×10^{-11} | 4.62×10^{-12} |
| Hydroquinone | 1.18×10^{-12} | 2.34×10^{-13} |

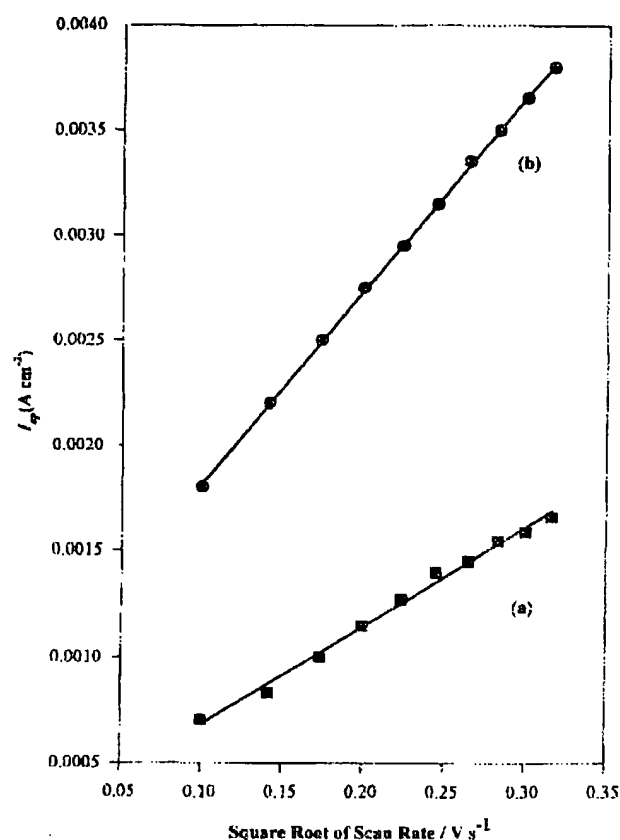
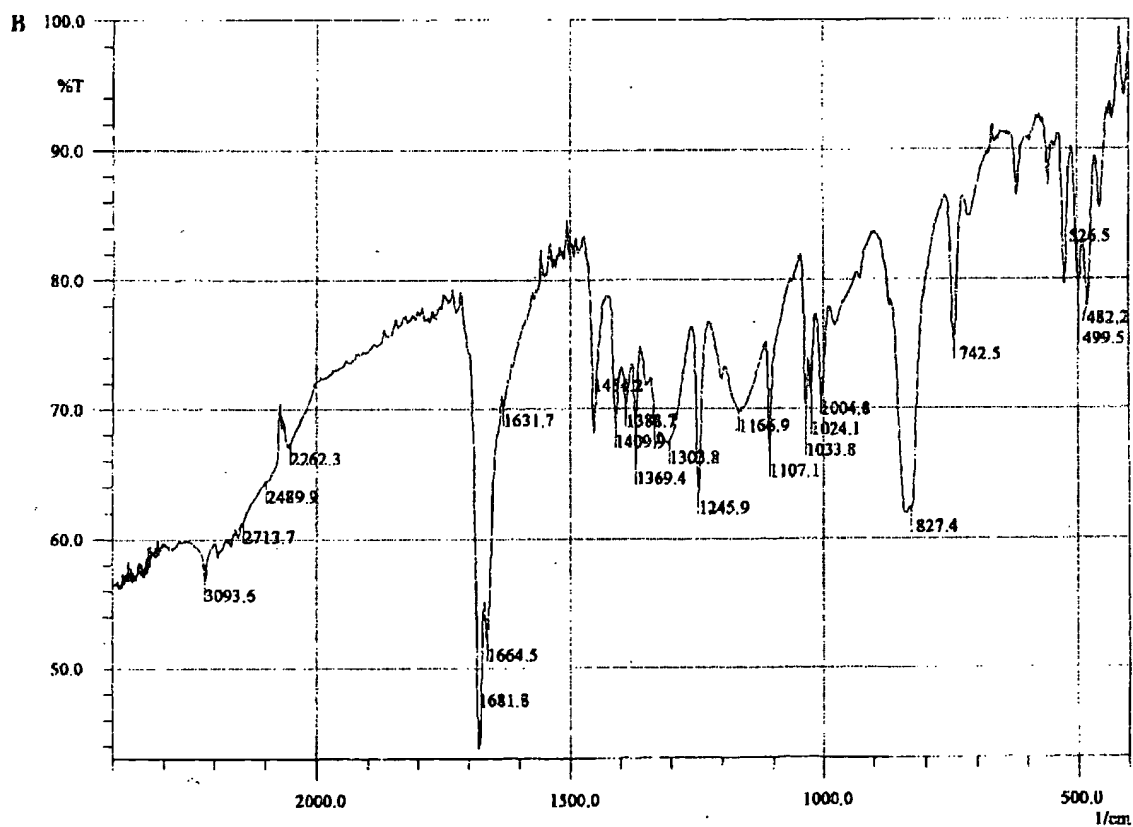
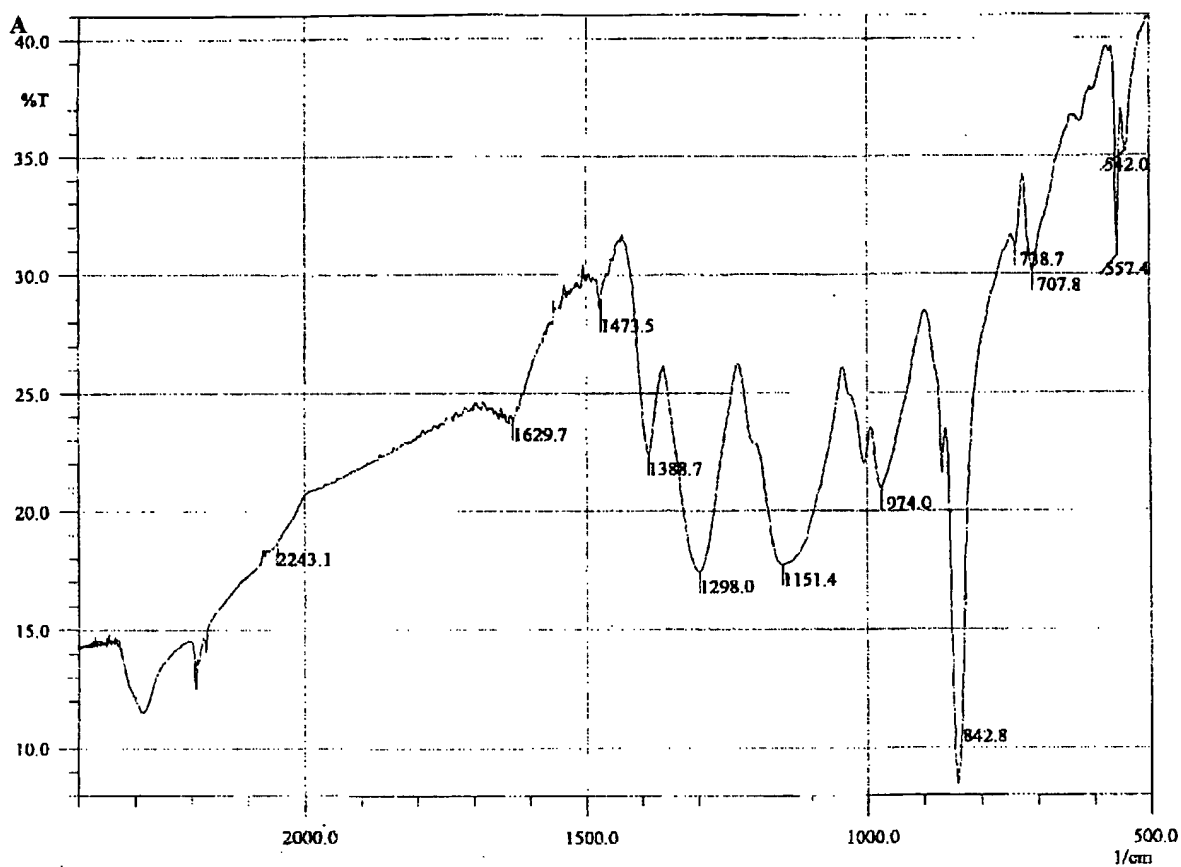


Fig. 5 Comparison of the square root of the scan rate vs I_{ap} plots of dopamine at PMT (a), and PMT/Fc (b) electrodes

IR spectroscopic analyses of the polymer film

The FTIR spectrum of a KBr pressed pellet of poly(3-methylthiophene) grown under a constant applied potential of 1.65 V is shown in Fig. 6A. The number of scans collected at a resolution of 2 cm^{-1} and with an accuracy of 0.004 cm^{-1} was 16 for all samples. The following results are in good agreement with that published earlier [39]. The assignments of the principal absorption bands are: the bands between 856 and 633 cm^{-1} are characteristics of the C-H out-of-plane vibrations, the sharp absorption band at 842 cm^{-1} is attributed to the ring C-H out-of-plane bending vibration, which is specific for the 2,5-disubstituted thiophene rings, the peak appearing at 1473 cm^{-1} is attributed to the stretching vibration of the 2,3,5-trisubstituted thiophene rings, and the band at 1388 cm^{-1} can be attributed to the deformation vibration of the methyl group. Figure 6B shows the FTIR spectrum of the PMT/Fc film grown with the incorporation of

Fig. 6 A FTIR spectrum of KBr pressed pellet of PMT grown potentiostatically, $E_{ap} = 1.65 \text{ V}$ vs Ag/AgCl. B FTIR spectrum of KBr pressed pellet of PMT/Fc grown potentiostatically, $E_{ap} = 1.65 \text{ V}$ vs Ag/AgCl



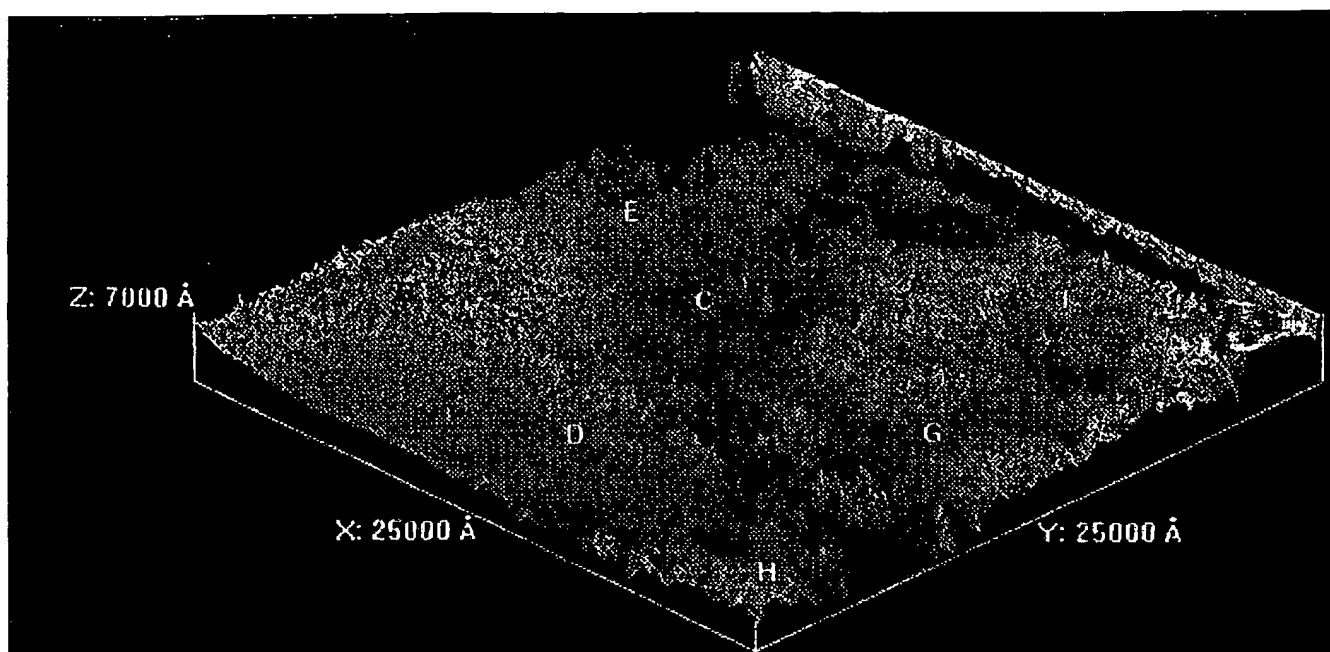


Fig. 7 Scanning tunneling micrograph of PMT/Fc grown on Pt substrate under potentiostatic conditions

ferrocene carboxaldehyde. The spectrum of Fig. 6B reveals the appearance of two peaks at 1664 and 1681 cm^{-1} , respectively. These peaks indicate the presence of the aldehydic group due to the incorporation of the ferrocenium moiety within the film.

Surface analyses of the PMT/Fc electrodes showed that the polymer film contained a sulfur atom bound to a heavy metal center [40]. The chemical shift for the sulfur spectra suggests that the sulfur atom is interacting with the iron of the ferrocenium moiety.

A scanning tunneling micrograph of the PMT/Fc film is shown in Fig. 7. The surface roughness appearing in the image of this film is identical to that obtained from scanning electron micrographs of the PMT films [41]. However, no indication was found of the formation of a porous film of PMT/Fc on the Pt substrate.

The conductivity measurements on the "as-grown" PMT/Fc films showed no appreciable differences when compared to the PMT films. In this case, the concentration of the ferrocenium moieties is not high enough to produce an increase in the conduction of the film.

Conclusions

Poly(3-methylthiophene) films were modified by the incorporation of an inorganic complex containing iron. The polymer films were grown onto platinum substrates and used for the determination of the electrochemical behavior of some organic molecules of biological interest. The electrochemical response of these electrodes showed higher currents for oxidation and reduction when compared to that of the "unmodified" polymer electrodes. Moreover, this work showed that the in-

corporation of an inorganic mediator into the conducting polymer film is possible using electrochemical means. The spectroscopic characterization of the polymer film proved the incorporation of the complex into the polymer matrix.

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Abstract

PUBLICATIONS

Selective hydrogen sensors based on conducting polymers

Sestak, Stephen, Conn, Costa, Lake, Michael, Baker, Anthony T., Unsworth, Joe, Univ. of Technology

Publication: Proc. SPIE Vol. 3241, p. 118-129, Smart Materials, Structures, and Integrated Systems, Ahsan Hariz; Vijay K. Varadan; Olaf Reinhold; Eds.**Publication Date:** 11/1997**Abstract:**

As part of a program focused on the development of selective conducting polymer gas sensors, we have investigated the behavior of polyaniline-platinum oxide chemoresistors in the presence of combustible gases such as hydrogen, methane, ethylene, acetylene and carbon monoxide. In this paper we report on results obtained using a polyaniline-platinum oxide sensor. By hydrogen atmosphere preconditioning, we were able to increase the selectivity and sensitivity of the sensors for hydrogen in air at concentrations between 1000 and 5400 parts per million (ppm).

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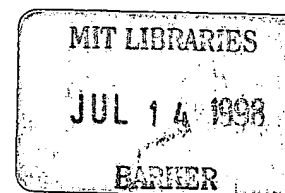
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Conducting polymers doped with metallic inclusions: New materials for gas sensors

L. Torsi ^{a,*}, M. Pezzuto ^a, P. Siciliano ^b, R. Rella ^b, L. Sabbatini ^a, L. Valli ^c,
P.G. Zambonin ^a

^a Dipartimento di Chimica, Università degli Studi di Bari 4, via Orabona, I-70216 Bari, Italy

^b Istituto per lo studio di nuovi Materiali per l'Elettronica (I.M.E.-C.N.R.), via Arnesano, I-73100 Lecce, Italy

^c Dipartimento di Scienze dei Materiali di Lecce, via Arnesano, I-73100 Lecce, Italy

Abstract

Electrochemically synthesised conducting polymers, such as polypyrrole and poly-3-methylthiophene, were doped with copper and palladium inclusions. These metals are deposited potentiostatically either on the pristine conducting films or on the partially reduced samples. Gas sensor devices based on these 'doped' organic films show interesting performances in detecting reducing gases such as NH₃, H₂ and CO. © 1998 Elsevier Science S.A. All rights reserved.

Keywords: Gas sensor; Conducting polymers; Polypyrrole; Poly-3-methylthiophene

1. Introduction

Conducting polymer based gas sensors are already employed as active devices in some commercially available 'electronic noses' [1]. Yet, there is still a strong interest in investigating new materials as well as new detecting systems [2], in order to fabricate better devices. Unlike inorganic oxide-based gas sensors, organic devices show good sensitivity even when operating at room temperature. Moreover the large number of available and conceivable conducting polymers is another clear advantage over inorganic oxide thin films when a multisensor device is to be engineered.

In this paper we report the study of the synthesis and analytical characterisation of polypyrrole (PPy) and poly-3-methylthiophene (P3MT) films whose matrices have been modified through the electrochemical inclusion of catalytic metals in different oxidation states. PPy films modified with the inclusion of a variety of metallic microparticles have been widely studied in the last 10 years [3]. Several applications of those films as electrocatalytic sensors working in solution have also been reported [4]. Microparticle inclusion procedures have also been successfully used to improve inorganic

semiconductors gas sensors performances. Despite this, very few studies are presently available on conducting polymers doped with catalyst microparticles employed as active layers in gas sensor devices. As a matter of fact, de Lacy Costello et al. [5] have studied gas sensor behavior of chemically polymerised PPy with tin oxide powder inclusions and Morea [6] has studied the behavior of polybithiophene films with inclusions of Pt particles.

2. Experimental

PPy and P3MT films were deposited directly onto Pt interdigitated electrodes defined on an alumina substrate (Fig. 1(a)). The interdigitated structure, with short circuited contacts, was used as the working electrode in a standard three-electrode electrochemical cell containing a 0.1 M KCl and 0.4 M pyrrole or 3-methylthiophene aqueous solution.

The reference electrode was Ag/AgCl ($E^0 = 0.2$ V vs NHE) and the counter electrode was a Pt foil sheet. The deposition was carried out potentiostatically at 0.8 V for the PPy and 1.1 V for the P3MT deposition [7], until a conducting film of several thousand nanometres was grown. This value has been estimated considering that a charge density of about 3 C/cm² was passed

* Corresponding author. Tel: +39 80 5442019; fax: +39 80 5442026; e-mail: cscpl40@area.ba.cnr.it

during the deposition and the device active area is about 6 mm². A cross-section of the device is shown in Fig. 1(b). The copper microparticle inclusions were obtained by applying a sequence of cathodic pulses to the Pt/PPy and the Pt/P3MT electrodes that started at 0 V and reached -0.35 V; 0 V is the measured open circuit potential for the elicited electrochemical cell, while -0.35 V is the deposition potential for metallic copper from a 0.1 M CuCl₂ solution. The same procedure was used for Pd inclusions; in this case the metal deposition potential was -0.7 V and the solution was 0.1 M PdCl₂ (Fig. 2(a)). Cathodic potential pulses were applied until a charge of 10–15 mC was passed through the cell. The choice of a pulse-type potential function was necessary to obtain the metal deposition; in fact, a potentiostatic procedure would have reduced the conducting polymeric film leading to its passivation and stopping the metal deposition itself.

The oxidation states of the catalytic metals included was investigated by X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) analysis. The analysis was performed with a Leybold LHS 10 Spectrometer equipped with a Mg K α anode source. Other instrumental details and procedures for curve fitting of spectroscopic signals are given elsewhere [8].

Electrical tests were performed in a controlled atmosphere with the aim of measuring the electrical resistance variations in the presence of different gases at various concentrations. The samples investigated were placed in a home-made stainless steel cell in which the gases could be injected through a small hole. In this way the sensor was part of an electrical circuit, and the values for the resistance were continuously monitored and stored by means of a HP multimeter connected to a HP Vectra Personal Computer. Matheson mixer-flowmeters were used to introduce and control the gas flow in the cell test with the desired percentage composition of the mixture.

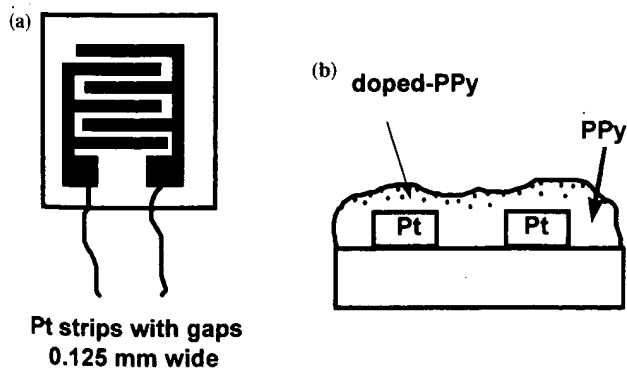


Fig. 1. (a) Interdigitated electrode structure; (b) Device structure.

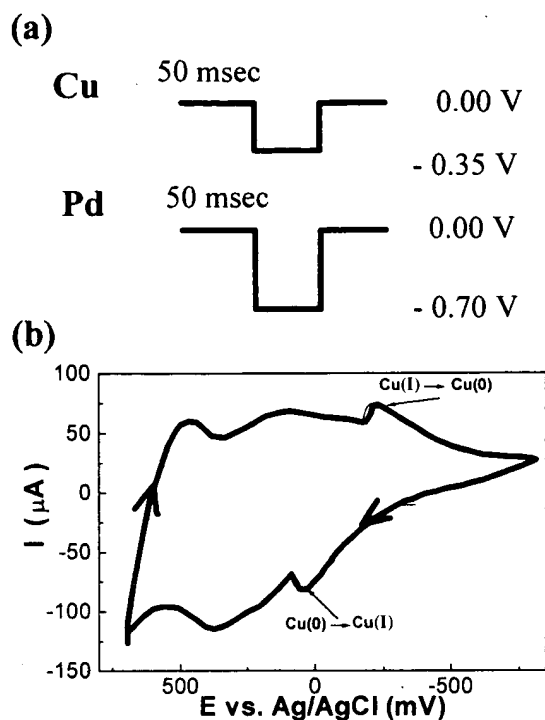


Fig. 2. (a) Sequence of pulses used for Cu and Pd inclusions. (b) Cyclic voltammetry of Cu-doped PPy in supporting electrolyte.

3. Results and discussion

Fig. 2(b) reports the cyclic voltammetry of a Cu-doped PPy working electrode in the supporting electrolyte aqueous solution (0.1 M KCl). Both the electroactivity of the polymer film and that of the copper redox couple are clearly evident. This confirms that the polymer surface has been modified with Cu inclusions. A similar result can be shown also for the Pd modified PPy film and Cu modified P3MT. Further microscopic analysis (SEM, AFM) of the samples is in progress. This will allow us to determine the size and shape of the metallic inclusions. The oxidation states of Cu and Pd catalytic metals in the polymer matrix have been assessed using XPS analysis. In Fig. 3 the Cu 2p_{3/2} (Fig. 3(a)) and Pd 3d (Fig. 3(b)) signals recorded on Cu/PPy and Pd/PPy samples respectively, are shown. The fitting peaks are the result of a theoretical simulation and correspond to XP-signals coming from Cu and Pd in their different oxidation states. Our best fit allows us to conclude that in the Cu/PPy film, copper is present as Cu(I) and Cu(II), i.e. CuCl₂, while in Pd/PPy, Pd is present as Pd(0) and Pd(II), the latter as PdO and PdCl₂, respectively. A cross-check of the attributions given above comes from the analysis of the Cl 2p spectra recorded on both the Cu and Pd doped films and the O 1s region in the latter one. As a matter of fact the peak area of the Cu(II) component and that of the Cl 2p signal are in the ratio 1:2; moreover, the

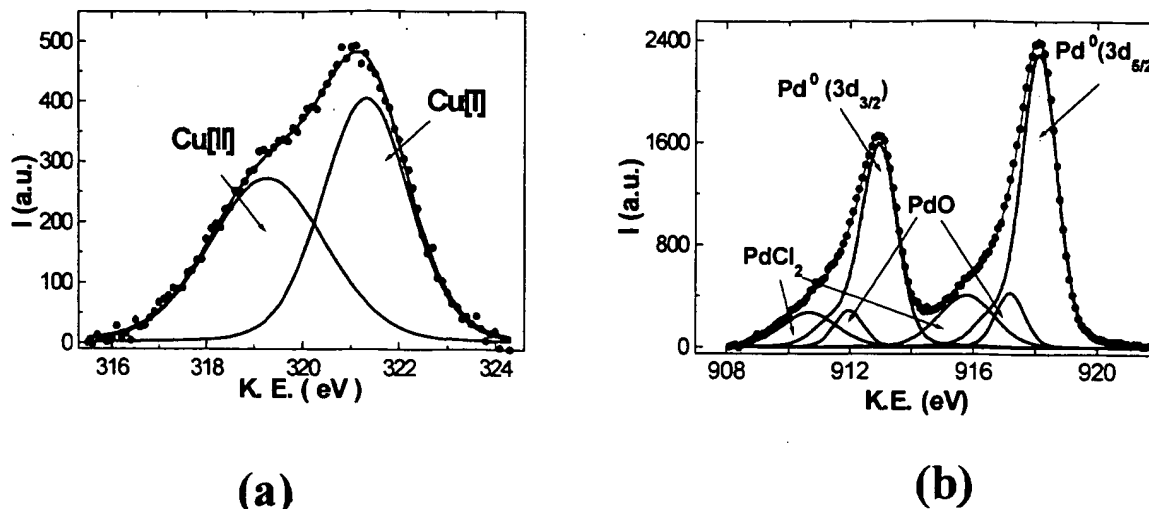


Fig. 3. X-Ray photoelectron spectra of doped PPy films: (a) Cu 2p_{3/2} region in Cu-PPy; (b) Pd 3d regions in Pd-PPy.

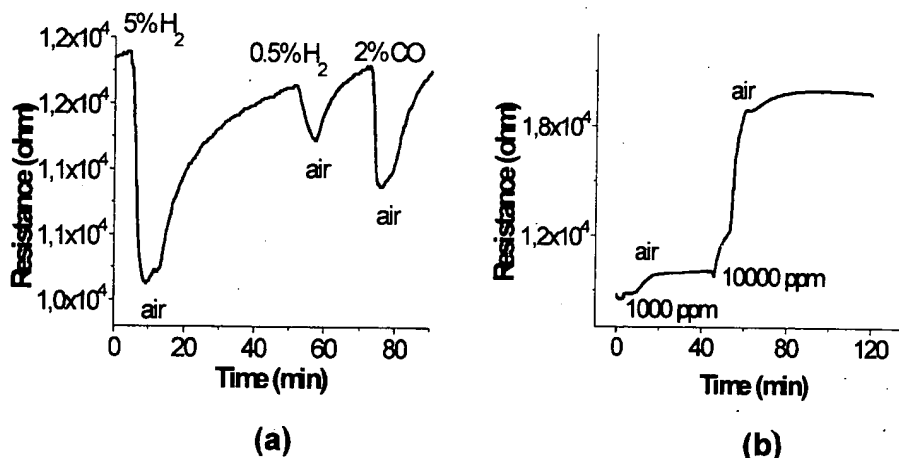


Fig. 4. Responses of Pd-PPy based gas sensor to different reducing gases; (a) H₂ and CO; (b) NH₃.

energy position of the O 1s signal is typical of that of an inorganic oxide such as PdO. The third fitting doublet of the Pd region can be assigned to PdCl₂ on the basis of both binding energy values and amount of chloride in the sample (Cl 2p signal area). It is to be underlined that in Pd-doped samples, the Cl signal cannot be attributable to PPy counterion due to the very low (if any) N⁺ signal (charged, oxidised pyrrole).

The responses of the PPy and P3MT based devices to different reducing gases, such as NH₃, H₂ and CO have been studied. The results relevant to the Pd-doped PPy sensor are reported in Fig. 4. The responses of pristine PPy and Cu-PPy sensors are described in the text. All data relevant to the devices' responses to different gases are reported in Table 1. The measurements were performed at room temperature using dry air at ambient pressure as carrier and reference gas; in all the experiments, a total flow of 100 sccm was used.

The electrical response measured when a pristine PPy

sensor is exposed to ammonia shows an increase in the resistance of the film, which is rapidly reversed when the gas flow is shut off reaching a value very close to its original one. This proves the reversibility of the process, in agreement with results already reported in literature [9]. A qualitatively similar behaviour, although quantitatively different, was found when Cu-doped and Pd-doped PPy sensors were exposed to the same gas. Both sensors show increasing resistance values upon exposure but these values are different from each other and different also from that of the pristine PPy sensor. This result shows that we can fabricate PPy based sensors with different characteristic responses to ammonia. The doped PPy sensors, however, suffer from a substantial lack of reversibility (Fig. 4(b)). In order to investigate the possible causes of the sensors' 'poisoning' we have analysed by XPS the doped films before and after the high concentration NH₃ exposure. In Fig. 5, the Cu 2p_{3/2} regions of the XP spectra of Cu-doped PPy films

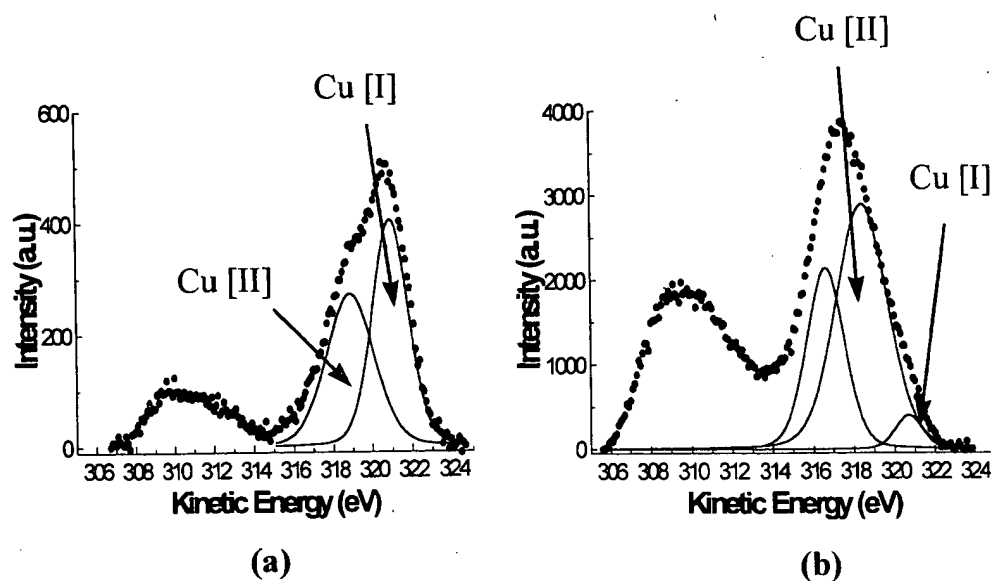


Fig. 5. Cu $2p_{3/2}$ region of the X-ray photoelectron spectra of Cu-doped PPy films (a) before and (b) after exposure of the film to NH_3 vapour.

are shown before (Fig. 5(a)) and after (Fig. 5(b)) the exposure of the film to NH_3 . In those figures, unlike Fig. 3(a) we have also reported the Cu $2p_{3/2}$ satellite regions. In Fig. 6, the N 1s region from the same sample is reported. The comparison between Fig. 6(a) and (b) clearly shows that not only the main peaks but also the satellite signals are significantly changed. In fact, after exposure to the gas, the best fit of the main signal is achieved only if a third peak (centred at higher binding energy) is added to the peaks we have previously ascribed to the Cu(II) and Cu(I) species. Moreover, the peak intensity ratio between these last two is completely changed. An analogous situation was found in the analysis of the N 1s region. Along with the three peaks assigned to polypyrrole's nitrogens (bonded to carbon and to hydrogen atoms) and to charged polarons (N^+ signal) [10], a peak at low binding energy has to be added in order to fit the N signal after exposure to the gas. A possible interpretation of this experimental evidence can be given considering the formation of a Cu–N bond in the doped film when exposed to NH_3 as reported by Inoe et al. [11]. These preliminary results

seem to indicate that ammonia interacts both with copper species and with the polymer substrate. A more systematic investigation is in progress in order to clarify this point.

The exposure of PPy and Cu-doped PPy sensors to H_2 and CO reducing gas produced an expected enhancement of the film resistance. On the other hand, the electrical response of the Pd–PPy sensor to H_2 , and CO produces a drastic drop in resistivity (Fig. 4(a)), while a resistivity enhancement is produced upon ammonia exposure (Fig. 4(b)). This is a quite interesting result because it shows that the Pd-doped sensor produces a response to H_2 and CO which is opposite to that of the other PPy-based sensors. Moreover the CO and H_2 responses of Pd–PPy sensor are highly reversible and reproducible.

As far as the P3MT-based sensor responses is concerned (Fig. 7), they are all quite low at least at RT. A study of their performance at higher temperature was therefore necessary. However preliminary results show that the sensor behavior is not completely reversible. Finally, we stress that long-term stability and humidity tests should be useful to control the reliability of these devices as well as its variation when the films are modified with metallic inclusions.

Table 1
Resistance variation of gas sensitive devices upon exposure to different reducing gases

| | NH_3 | CO | H_2 |
|---------|---------------|-----------|--------------|
| PPy | Increases | Increases | Increases |
| Cu–PPy | Increases | Increases | Increases |
| Pd–PPy | Increases | Decreases | Decreases |
| Cu–P3MT | Increases | — | — |

Acknowledgements

We acknowledge Drs I. Losito and M.R. Guascito for helpful discussions and Dr Isa De Bari for sharing information on new unpublished results. The Italian National Research Council is acknowledged for financial support.

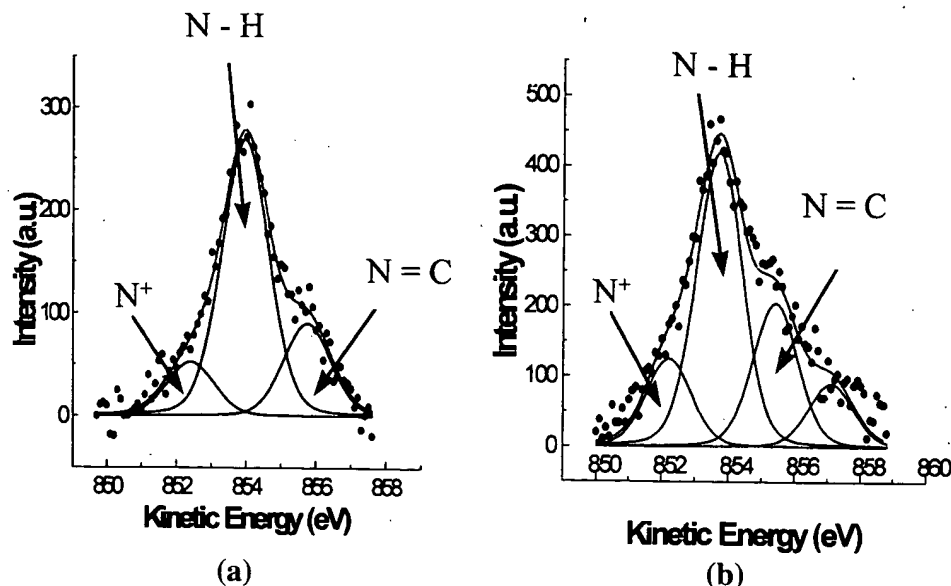


Fig. 6. N 1s region of the X-ray photoelectron spectra of Cu-doped PPy films before (a) and after (b) the exposure of the film to NH_3 vapours.

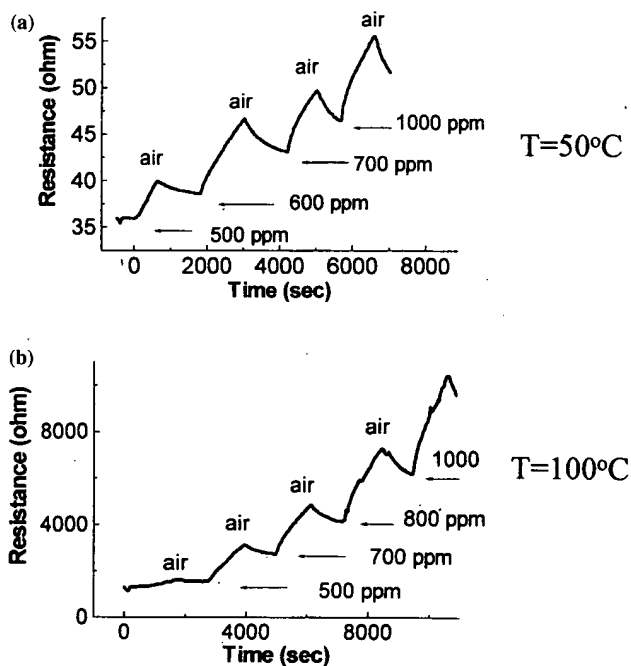


Fig. 7. Responses of P3MT (reduced and doped with copper) based gas sensor to NH_3 vapours; (a) at 50°C ; (b) at 100°C .

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Biographies

Luisa Torsi was born in 1964 and received her doctorate degree in Physics from the University of Bari, Italy in March 1989. She finished her Ph.D. in Chemistry in 1992 working at the University of Bari on the fabrication, characterisation and development of organic/inorganic heterojunction devices. From 1994 to 1996, she joined Bell Labs as a post doctoral fellow working in the field of organic thin film transistors under the supervision of Dr Ananth Dodabalapur. Since 1993 she is Assistant Professor at the Department of Chemistry of the University of Bari. She is author of more than 30 papers, three of them published in *Science* magazine.

Pietro Siciliano was born in 1960. After a degree in Physics, he was at the Dept. of Physics of the University of Lecce. In 1989, he took his Ph.D. degree in the field of electrical characterisation of semiconductor devices. Since then he has been working at the Institute for Electronic Materials (I.M.E.—C.N.R.) and, at the moment, he is involved in research concerning the studies of physical properties of organic and inorganic thin films for gas sensor applications.

Roberto Rella was born in 1959, and received his degree in Physics from Lecce University, Italy, in 1985. Since 1989, he has been working as a researcher in the Institute for Electronic Materials (I.M.E.) of the National Council of Research (C.N.R.) in Lecce. He has been involved in research concerning the growth and

characterisation of semiconductor materials and organic and inorganic chemical gas sensors.

Luigia Sabbatini was born in 1950, and has been Full Professor of Analytical Chemistry at the University of Bari since 1986. She is a member of the editorial boards of *Journal of Electron Spectroscopy and Related Phenomena* and *Annali di Chimica (Rome)*, and is also member of the Advisory Board of *Fresenius Journal of Analytical Chemistry*. Her main scientific interests are: development and surface characterisation of innovative polymeric materials of interest for applications in microelectronics and sensors; surface and interface investigation on material/biological system interactions aimed at enhancing biocompatibility and biomedical device performance; exploitation of non-destructive analytical methodologies in the field of cultural heritage. She is author of more than 80 papers published in international journals.

Ludovico Valli received his degree in Chemistry from the University of Pisa (Italy) in 1988. Afterwards he was a research CNR fellow for 2 years and worked in the Department of Material Science in Lecce University. Since 1992 he has been a lecturer in Chemistry in the Faculty of Engineering in Lecce University where he superintends the laboratory for the deposition of Langmuir-Blodgett films.

Pier Giorgio Zambonin has been Full Professor of Analytical Chemistry at the University of Bari (Italy) since 1975. He is a member of the editorial board of *Fresenius Journal of Analytical Chemistry* and *Analytical Methodologies and Instrumentation*. His research interests are: basic electrochemistry; development and applications of biosensors based on membranes with built-in selectivity; materials science. He is author of about 200 publications in international journals.

Marcello Pezzuto received his doctorate degree in Chemistry from the University of Bari in 1995.